

AMENDMENT IN THE CLAIMS

The following includes the entire set of pending claims including markups.

Please amend Claims 1, 5-6, 8-17, 19, 22, and 31-33.

1. (currently amended) A method of intercepting a communication between two applications in a computer environment, the method comprising:

intercepting a user action between a first application and a second application without changing [[the]] a functionality of the first application and the second application;

providing a digital object created by the second application;

providing a control object capable of specifying an action on the digital object depending on the intercepted user action; and

performing the action specified by the control object on the digital object.

2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first application and the second application communicate via a predefined communication channel.

3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the action comprises re-directing the user action to a third application.

4. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the action comprises monitoring the user action.

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein [[the]] monitoring the user action comprises auditing a plurality of user actions taken on the digital object by recording the type and frequency of the plurality of user actions.

6. (currently amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein [[the]] monitoring the user action comprises computing the efficiency of the first application or the second application for performing certain user actions.

7. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the action comprises

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augmenting information to the user action.

8. (currently amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein [[the]] augmenting information to the user action comprises authorizing user access and use of the digital object.

9. (currently amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein [[the]] augmenting information to the user action comprises authorizing user access and use of the second application.

10. (currently amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein [[the]] augmenting information to the user action comprises activating purchase requirements for user access and use of the digital object including presenting a display screen whereby the user can (i) confirm a previous payment or (ii) purchase control rights for access and use of the digital object.

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11. (currently amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein [[the]] augmenting information to the user action comprises activating purchase requirements for user access and use of the second application including presenting a display screen whereby the user can (i) confirm a previous payment or (ii) purchase control rights for access and use of the second application.

12. (currently amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein [[the]] augmenting information to the user action comprises displaying advertisements upon particular application communications.

13. (currently amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein [[the]] augmenting information to the user action comprises executing a help program on specific application communications.

14. (currently amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein [[the]] augmenting information to the user action comprises rendering audible or visual feedback to the user action implemented on the digital object or the second application.

15. (currently amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein [[the]] augmenting

information to the user action comprises archiving a history of user actions implemented on the digital object or the second application.

16. (currently amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein [[the]] augmenting information to the user action comprises customizing a user assistance program based on information related to the user action and collected by the control object, wherein the user assistance program can render audible or visual feedback to a user when one or more pre-defined user actions are repeated.

17. (currently amended) A method of ~~in-place~~ editing by user action of digital objects created in a document server application in data communication with a hosting application, the method comprising:

providing an intercept application which intercepts an ~~in-place~~ editing user action sent from [[the]] a hosting application to a document server application;

providing an external control agent which monitors the editing user action intercepted by the intercept application;

registering the intercept application with an operating system;

designating an application associated with the creation of a digital object as the document server application;

designating the intercept application as [[the]] an active document server of the digital object;

providing rules of usage of the digital object;

activating the external control agent to open the digital object and to read the rules that are associated with the digital object;

sending the ~~in-place~~ editing user action from the intercept application to the external control agent whereby the ~~in-place~~ editing user action is monitored by the external control agent;

opening the digital object using the intercept application; and

performing the ~~in-place~~ editing user action on the digital object according to the rules of usage.

18. (original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the hosting application comprises an Internet browser application.

19. (currently amended) A method of embedding a control object into a hosting application as an interface to determine the control rights of a digital object, the method comprising:

providing a digital object created by a document server application in communication with a hosting application;

providing a control object to open the digital object and to read control rights associated with the digital object;

intercepting a user action between the hosting application and the document server application by an intercept application;

monitoring the user action intercepted by the intercept application by the control object; and

authorizing a user to implement an action on the digital object depending on the intercepted user action and according to the control rights.

20. (original) The method of Claim 19, wherein the hosting application comprises an Internet browser application.

21. (previously presented) A system of embedding a control object into a hosting application as an interface to determine the control rights of a digital object and to monitor user actions, the system comprising:

a control object which monitors a plurality of user actions;

a hosting application which activates the control object to open a digital object and to read control rights associated with the digital object;

a document server application associated with the creation of the digital object; and

an intercept application which intercepts the user actions between the hosting application and the document server application, mimics the functionality of the document server application, and performs the user actions on the digital object depending on the intercepted user actions and according to the control rights.

22. (currently amended) A program storage device storing instructions for a computer to perform the method comprising:

providing an intercept application which intercepts an ~~in-place~~ editing user action sent from a hosting application to a document server application;

providing an external control agent which monitors the user action intercepted by the intercept application;

registering the intercept application with an operating system;

designating an application associated with the creation of a digital object as the document server application;

designating the intercept application as the active document server of the digital object;

providing rules of usage of the digital object;

activating the external control agent to open the digital object and to read the rules that are associated with the digital object;

sending the ~~in-place~~ editing user action from the intercept application to the external control agent whereby the ~~in-place~~ editing user action is monitored by the external control agent;

opening the digital object using the intercept application; and

performing the ~~in-place~~ editing user action on the digital object according to the rules of usage.

23. (original) The program storage device of Claim 22, wherein the hosting application comprises an Internet browser application.

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

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30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the user action includes an ~~in~~-place edit on the digital object.

32. (currently amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein the user action includes an ~~in~~-place edit on the digital object.

33. (currently amended) The method of Claim 21, wherein the user actions include an ~~in~~-place edit on the digital object.

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